There are many complaints, Davy, against that Visor : that Visor is an arrant knave, on my knowledge.

DAVY. I grant your worship, that he is a knave, sir : but yet, God forbid, sir, but a knave should have some countenance at his friend's request. An honest man, sir, is able to speak for himself, when a knave is not. I have served your worship truly, sir, this^ eight years ; and if I cannot once or twice in a quarter bear out a knave against an honest man, I have but a very little credit with your worship [3]. The knave is mine honest friend, sir : therefore, I beseech your worship, let him be countenanced. ••

SHAL. Go to; I say, he shall have no wrong. Look about, Davy. /*Exit* iO-'/rF.] Where are you, sir John ? Come, off with your boots. — Give me your hand, master Bardolph.

BARD. I am glad to see your worship.

SHAL. I thank thee with all my heart, kind master Bardolph ; — and welcome, my tall fellow'[3]. [To *the Page^.~|* Come, sir John, *[Exit*

* Folio, *these.* † This direction is not in the old copies.

[2] — and if I cannot once or twice in a quarter bear out a knave.'* &c.] This is no exaggerated picture of the course of justice in those days. The Lord Keeper, Sir Nicholas Bacon, in his speech to both houses of parliament, 1559, says, ** is it not a monstrous disguising to have a justice a maintainer, acquitting some for gain, entiting others for malice. '*bearing with him as his servant,* overthrowing the other as his enemy." D'IEW$, p. 34s And he uses the same words in another speech, 1571, ibid. 15$. A member of the house of commons, in 1601, says, ** A justice of peace is a living creature yet [readtfto] for half a dozen chickens will dispense with half a dozen penal statutes.—!!

a warrant come from the lord of the council to levy a hundred men, he will levy two hundred, and what with chopping in and ch using out, he'll gain a hundred pounds by the bargain : nay, , . , . » he will write the warrant himself, and you must put two shillings in his pocket as his clerk's fee (when God knows he keeps but two or three hindes,) for his better maintenance," P, 66 L BLAKEWAY.

s — my TALL fellow.] Whether the epithet *tall*, in the pis*